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Chairperson: Ms. Lintonen (Chairperson) ..... (Finland)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.35 p.m.

Agenda item 59: Operational activities for development (*continued*)

(b) Triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system (*continued*) (A/C.2/62/L.4 and L.63)

Draft resolution on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system

1. **The Chairperson** invited the Committee to consider draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.63, which was being submitted by Mr. Saleh (Lebanon), Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.4. The draft proposal contained no programme budget implications.

2. **Mr. Gass** (Switzerland), speaking as facilitator of the informal consultations, pointed out some minor editorial changes and a few corrections. In the fourteenth paragraph, the words "with concern" had been deleted. In paragraph 3, the word "recipient" had been replaced by "programme". In paragraph 32, the words "the internationally agreed development goals, including" had been added before "the Millennium Development Goals". In paragraph 124, "management," had been inserted before "policy advisory".

3. *Draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.63, as orally corrected, was adopted.*

4. **Mr. Khan** (Pakistan), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, expressed satisfaction at joining the consensus on the resolution, after two months of gruelling negotiations. Some difficult compromises had been made.

5. **Ms. Ferreira** (Portugal), speaking on behalf of the European Union; the candidate countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey; the stabilization and association process countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia; and, in addition, Armenia, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, recognized the unprecedented efforts and commitment shown by all Member States in the complex process of negotiating the triennial comprehensive policy review. The text, although not perfect, encapsulated the main interests of all negotiating parties, and the negotiation process had contributed to increasing trust among Member States, which would surely spur further consensus on difficult issues in the future.

6. **Mr. Heidt** (United States of America) said that his delegation had joined the consensus in order to help move the discussions forward on a positive note. As the resolution was the main General Assembly instrument providing guidance for operational activities for development, its lack of clarity on some important and operational issues was a matter of concern. During implementation of United Nations development activities, its provisions would need to be continuously reviewed and improved in a number of ways.

7. First, although there was some recognition of the role of the private sector in development, there was no support for its central importance as an engine for sustainable economic growth and the need for the United Nations system to help countries to create an environment that fostered local private sector development. That was a serious flaw that would impede economic growth and poverty eradication efforts worldwide.

8. Second, the funding section emphasized resource increases for their own sake, with little regard to how the funds would be used and the results expected, which was inconsistent with the results-based management system and results-based budgets that many funds and programmes were embracing. The Secretary-General's report to the next General Assembly, which was requested in paragraph 30 of the resolution, would surely be based on results-based resource allocation principles.

9. Third, the promotion of national execution without acknowledgement of the need to address the weaknesses reported by the auditors in that programme implementation modality could put agencies' funds, credibility and reputations at risk.

10. Fourth, although the need for an independent evaluation of the One United Nations pilots had been recognized, his country strongly supported a role for the regional commissions in those efforts.

11. His last concern related to the fact that the funding of the specialized agencies was the responsibility of their governing bodies and not the Second Committee. In that regard, paragraph 25

confused the relationship between the General Assembly and the specialized agencies and dangerously encroached on the budgetary authority of the specialized agencies' independent governing bodies. That same paragraph also distorted the budget situations of the specialized agencies in suggesting widespread stagnation in funding levels. That assertion was not supported by the facts.

12. **Mr. Nakamura** (Japan) said that the text adopted was the only formulation that could have brought about an agreement. During the negotiations, his country had proposed some paragraphs on human security and the community-based, bottom-up approach to development, as a way of helping to resolve many of the problems facing vulnerable populations. Although those proposals had been withdrawn for the sake of consensus, his country would continue to support the mainstreaming of the idea of human security in United Nations development activities in the United Nations and other forums. Improving the effectiveness of United Nations operational activities was essential for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. To that end, Japan would participate constructively in the discussions on system-wide coherence, the United Nations Development Programme strategic plan and other relevant issues.

13. **Mr. Brevik** (Norway) said that the Committee's compromise text embodied the spirit of resolution 59/250, reaffirmed the commitments it contained and encouraged the continuation of the processes that the previous triennial comprehensive policy review had set in motion. The frank and open exchange of different points of view during that process had deepened Committee members' understanding of each other's positions and had surely contributed to establishing the necessary trust and confidence to enable them all to work constructively together to reach the common goal of a United Nations that was able to deliver better and more effectively in terms of helping those in the greatest need.

14. **Mr. Metelitsa** (Belarus) welcomed the consensus on the draft resolution, which was the result of a compromise and contained many provisions of a general nature. His delegation understood that paragraphs 45 and 46 of the draft were intended as guidance for the United Nations Development Programme and other agencies in helping programme countries to introduce new technologies, including in the area of increasing energy effectiveness. Furthermore, the fourteenth and sixteenth preambular paragraphs and paragraphs 9, 35, 37 and 46 should be understood as referring not just to developing countries but to all programme countries.

15. *Draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.4 was withdrawn.*

Agenda item 129: Programme planning (*continued*)

16. **The Chairperson** informed the Committee that she had been advised by the Secretariat that there were no matters that would require the Committee's attention or action under that agenda item. She took it that the Committee decided that no action was required under that agenda item.

17. *It was so decided.*

Agenda item 121: Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly (*continued*) (A/C.2/62/L.62)

Draft programme of work of the Second Committee for the sixty-third session of the General Assembly

18. **The Chairperson** drew attention to the Committee's draft programme of work for the sixty-third session of the General Assembly (A/C.2/62/L.62).

19. *The draft programme of work of the Second Committee for the sixty-third session of the General Assembly was adopted.*

Completion of the main part of the Committee's work

20. **The Chairperson**, in her closing remarks, said that the fact that the Committee had adopted most of its resolutions by consensus demonstrated the realization among Member States that they faced the same threats and challenges and needed to work together. The outcome of the Committee's work consolidated the global partnership and created a solid platform on which to work together more efficiently to reduce poverty and achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

21. The Committee had enjoyed a very productive session, adopting 34 resolutions and one decision by consensus and just 7 resolutions by a vote. Of particular note were the resolution setting the modalities for the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and the resolution proclaiming the second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017).

22. The Committee had also demonstrated a united front on climate change. Despite the vote on the paragraph requesting that the sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change be funded from the regular budget, the resolution as a whole had been adopted by consensus, sending a strong and timely message to Bali.

23. It was regrettable that the Committee had not managed to reach consensus on the trade and development resolution for the fourth year in a row. She hoped that the Committee would achieve a positive outcome on the issue the following year.

24. After many hours of deliberations, the Committee had also just adopted a comprehensive resolution on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system. She expressed her appreciation to the facilitator, Mr. Thomas Gass (Switzerland), and to all those involved in the negotiations for their efforts to reach consensus on such an important resolution.

25. As in previous years, the Committee had benefited from a series of panel discussions on issues pertaining to its programme of work. The Committee should continue to invite experts and relevant stakeholders so as to enable ideas to be exchanged and different viewpoints to be considered.

26. Even though the Committee had had to request an extension in order to complete its work, the atmosphere had remained constructive throughout the session. In that regard, she expressed appreciation to the members of the Bureau and the various facilitators; to the relevant United Nations entities for their contributions; and to the many staff members who had facilitated the Committee's work. Without such support, the Committee would not have been able to complete its work.

27. **Mr. Sha** Zukang (Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs) said that the Committee had demonstrated once again the importance of multilateralism and the role of the United Nations in promoting international cooperation for development. The Organization's comprehensive set of development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, represented a global consensus on a shared vision for development. Given the mixed results in achieving the internationally agreed upon goals thus far, the Committee's work should be seen as a significant contribution towards renewed efforts for the implementation of all development commitments.

28. The current session had been particularly notable for some very important decisions. Building on the momentum generated by the High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development, the Committee had adopted a resolution setting out the modalities for the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development. The Committee had set the stage for a Review Conference that would not only assess progress made, but also reaffirm goals and commitments, leading to further action. Emerging issues such as South-South cooperation, triangular development cooperation and the growing need for strengthened international cooperation in tax matters could also be addressed. A critical juncture had been reached in the financing for development process. He stressed the need to sustain political will for the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus. His Department would work closely with the two co-chairs in preparing for the Conference.

29. The Committee's landmark resolution on the triennial comprehensive policy review would provide guidance to the United Nations development system in carrying out its operational activities for development, specifically on funding, national capacity development and development effectiveness, improved functioning and follow-up. The Committee had set the stage for the future work of the United Nations development system; the Economic and Social Council would be instrumental in enhancing the system's coherence and effectiveness. The Development Cooperation Forum was expected to become a principal mechanism for global dialogue and policy review on key development cooperation issues.

30. The Committee had also taken commendable action on poverty eradication, the greatest challenge facing the world today. He was confident that the Committee's decision to proclaim the second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017) would galvanize the international community's efforts and touch the lives of the weak, the hungry and the poor.

31. The Committee's timely resolution calling for urgent global action to address climate change had provided the backdrop for discussions at the United Nations Climate Change Conference held recently in Bali. Like the Committee, the Conference of the

Parties had acknowledged that efforts to address climate change in a manner that enhanced the sustainable development and sustained economic growth of the developing countries and the eradication of poverty should be carried out through promoting the integration of the three components of sustainable development, namely, economic development, social development and environmental protection.

32. To achieve poverty eradication and sustainable development, globalization must become a positive force for all. The increasing interdependence of national economies in a globalizing world and the emergence of rule-based regimes for international economic relations had affected the scope for domestic policies, particularly in such areas as trade, investment and industrial development. In that regard, the Committee had highlighted the need for appropriate balance between national policy space and international obligations.

33. Against a backdrop of global financial turmoil, the Committee had underscored that global economic growth and a stable international financial system could strengthen the ability of developing countries to achieve internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. To that end, the Committee had rightly stressed the importance of cooperative and coordinated efforts by all countries and institutions to cope with the risks of financial instability. The Committee had also reiterated the need to enhance developing country voice and participation in the Bretton Woods institutions, which it had encouraged to take further and effective measures. He hoped that the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development would address those issues.

34. Lastly, the Committee had helped give new impetus to the implementation of the United Nations development agenda. The Secretariat looked forward to continuing to support the Committee's work in that area.

35. **Mr. Silvestre** (Portugal), speaking on behalf of the European Union; the candidate countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey; the stabilization and association process countries Albania, Montenegro and Serbia; and, in addition, Armenia, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, said that the overall result of the Committee's work in all four of its clusters demonstrated the international community's unity and close collaboration on the broad range of issues relating to development. He expressed appreciation to all delegations for their spirit of cooperation, dedication, moments of inspiration and flexibility; acknowledged the negotiating partners' efforts to find common ground and advance the Committee's agenda; and observed that the quality of the discussions within the Committee itself had been considerably enhanced by the participation of experts, senior officials, interest groups and civil society in the Committee's general debate and various side-events.

36. There was still room for improvement, however, in many aspects of the Committee's work, particularly its repetitive nature. Certain working methods should also be further improved. In particular, he called for better utilization of time available and better allocation of venues for informal consultations. He nonetheless welcomed the Secretariat's work on the Committee's website and QuickPlace, both of which had proven very useful to delegations.

37. The European Union would continue its commitment to ensuring consistency between its internal and external policies in order to achieve global goals on all the issues addressed by the United Nations. In light of the challenges currently facing it, the world expected the United Nations to tackle the issues before it decisively, efficiently and effectively, and required strengthened and more ambitious international policy commitments.

38. Lastly, the Committee should focus more on action on the ground so as to ensure that the objectives set by the international community were implemented.

39. **Mr. Nakamura** (Japan) said that his delegation regretted that it had been necessary to decide some resolutions by a vote and hoped that Member States would renew their commitment to finding common ground so that all resolutions could be adopted by consensus the following year.

40. With so many major development-related conferences scheduled, 2008 would be an important year for international efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. He hoped that the following year's programme of work would take into consideration delegations' increased obligations and responsibilities as a result of such events. In particular, it was important to avoid duplication between the preparatory process for the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development and the Committee's work in the macroeconomic cluster.

41. In 2008, Japan would host the fourth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD IV) in May and the Group of Eight (G-8) Hokkaido-Toyako Summit in July. His Government was determined to use those opportunities to advance the cause of African development, promote the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and contribute to the work of both the Economic and Social Council and the Committee.

42. After the customary exchange of courtesies, in which **Mr. Silvestre** (Portugal), **Mr. Le Roux** (South Africa), **Mr. Khan** (Pakistan), on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and **Mr. Nakamura** (Japan) participated, the **Chairperson** declared that the Committee had completed the main part of its work for the sixty-second session.

The meeting rose at 4.40 p.m.